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**General Election 2024**

**Additional questions for candidates**

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**Climate Change**

* We need to transition away from fossil fuels if we are to have any chance of halting the climate crisis. How would you work to ensure that the UK finally ends all new oil, coal and gas projects and phases out existing ones?
* Some of the world’s poorest communities are facing the greatest burden of the climate crisis. With millions of people already displaced as a result of extreme weather events, how would you support working with other countries to raise new taxes from the most polluting industries such as shipping, aviation and fossil fuels to support countries suffering the impacts of climate catastrophes?

**The issue:** The climate crisis is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. It is already causing mass displacement of people across the world and destroying the natural world, upon which life on earth depends. The UK is one of the largest historic emitters of greenhouse gases driving the climate crisis, so it has a particular responsibility to take action to keep temperatures rises below 1.5C.

**We would like to see** an end to all spending on fossil fuels both at home and abroad and ensure significant financial support for those countries who are hardest hit but least responsible.

**Debt**

* Given that over 50 of the world’s poorest nations are currently struggling with a debt crisis, are you supportive of the idea that the UK should champion debt cancellation for those low-income countries who need it so that they can properly fund their essential public services?
* Many of the world’s poorest countries are in debt crisis meaning money they could spend on health, education or tackling the climate crisis is instead going to big banks and wealthy nations. If you were elected, would you support a new legislation that could prevent private creditors such as Blackrock or HSBC from suing low-income countries in UK courts?

**The issue:** Many of the world’s poorest countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis. Due to the economic crisis, high interest rates and the fall-out from the pandemic, many countries have been left with unsustainable debt burdens. This means money that could be spent on health, education or tackling climate change is instead going to big banks, who are making millions in profit while populations suffer. The vast majority of lower-income country debt contracts are governed by English or New York law. This means that the UK could pass legislation to ensure that creditors cannot sue countries who are struggling to pay. There is growing support for this legislation, and the UK Parliament’s International Development Select Committee has recommended this option is explored.

**We would like to see** the cancellation of unsustainable debts owed by low-income countries, including the introduction of new legislation to prevent private creditors from suing low-income countries in UK courts.

**Migration and asylum**

* Every year, people die as they attempt to cross borders to reach safety. If elected, will you champion the right to safe and legal routes for people needing to flee their homes, rather than leave vulnerable people prey to people smugglers?
* If elected, will you ensure the country is a welcoming one to refugees and migrants, including ending the unjust deportation of people who haven’t even had their asylum applications heard?

**The issue:** Every year thousands of people tragically die crossing borders as they try to find safety for themselves and their families. In recent years it has become even harder for people who need safety to reach the UK. For many that are able to reach the UK, recent changes in the law make it almost impossible for them to apply for asylum and find sanctuary here. Instead, they face the possibility of being indefinitely detained and deported to a third country, such as Rwanda.

**We would like to see** an asylum system based on principles of compassion, humanity and dignity.